

St. Regis Public School District #1

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February 4, 2013

Long-Range Planning subcommittee

Re: Quality School Grant House Bill 15

EXHIBIT 8

DATE Feb. 4, 2013

HB 15

Good morning Chairman Cook and members of the Long-Range Planning (LRP) subcommittee, I am grateful for this opportunity to speak to you this morning. My name is Janet Hanson, and I am superintendent of the St. Regis School District. I came to express my support for the House Bill 15, Quality Schools Grant funding included in the Governor's budget. I also hear a new proposal is in progress to transfer lottery revenue into the Quality Schools Grant program and I think it is a great idea.

Our school district's grant request is for accessibility improvements, specifically an ADA compliant public and school library restroom, accessibility ramp to our school stage from the gymnasium floor, ADA and code compliant gymnasium bleachers, and a remodel of our multi-head locker room showers to a series of ADA accessible individual showers with energy saving shower heads.

St. Regis school district includes a single building with three wings with the main building initially constructed in 1933 after a fire burnt down the original building. The gym, locker room and concession area were added in 1967. Carpeting and concession area were remodeled and the library was added in 1996. Though the facilities were in compliance with local, state and Federal regulations at the time of construction, maintenance and upgrades are necessary to keep them in compliance and up-to-date with new regulations and building codes for a safe and efficient school environment for our students, staff, and community members.

I would like to read comments for those who would have liked to be here today though could not be present.

Dear Committee: This Quality School grant goes beyond just physical repair, it shows the community that our school is looking forward and making positive changes that you can see. It lets our students know that our staff, administration and school board members have pride in our school and a vested interest in their future. Positive programs like the Quality School grant is a game changer for student pride and that could make a huge difference! Sincerely, Joe Connolly, St. Regis School Board Member

Dear Committee: I am so thrilled to hear about the ADA improvements you are planning for our school, as a person who was suddenly forced into a wheel chair due to a badly broken leg, I learned how difficult and sometimes impossible it was to navigate areas of our school. As a trustee I made regular visits so I needed constant help. I can't imagine the challenges that a full time student or permanently disabled person would face. On behalf of those who temporarily or

permanently need better accessibility, thank you so much for putting these important and long overdue changes to the top of your list. Sincerely, Carol Young

Dear Committee: I don't know what to say about myself. I can't get up the bleachers because I am physically unable to climb the bleachers. I can do it but it isn't pretty. I feel that the new situation here is warranted. We have a very economically stressed community that makes it very difficult to finance things like new bleachers. We need the locker rooms too. I think we do need a public library bathroom too. Everything stated in the grant I feel is needed with the bleachers being my main concern.

I am encouraged by the work done so far by the administration and staff to accomplish the things we need done. I know we can work together as we have before to improve the school for our students and community. Please give us your highest consideration. We will be so grateful. Thank you for the good work you are doing to serve the schools in our state. Thank you, Gerry Gotcher, community member